

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 1, 2004 has been received and carefully considered. In this response claims 1, 2, 15, 35, 40, 41, 45-48, 51 and 52 have been amended and claim 50 has been canceled. Support for these amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Entry thereof therefore is respectfully requested. Reconsideration of the outstanding objections and rejections in the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Interview on October 27, 2004

At the outset, the undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview conducted on October 27, 2004. During the interview, proposed claim amendments to claims 1, 40 and 45 were discussed. Specifically, the Applicants proposed amending claims 1, 40 and 45 to recite the limitations that the dynamic condition being monitored includes a plurality of values to be provided substantially simultaneously in time to a plurality of first nodes that are adjacent to the first output. As explained by the Applicants' representative and as discussed in greater detail below, Ang (U.S. Patent No. 4,420,913) does not disclose or suggest that a plurality of values are monitored nor does Ang disclose that the drive strength of a driver is adjusted based on such monitored values nor that such monitored values provided at the output of the driver.

Allowability of Claims 3-13, 16, 35-39, 42-44 and 49

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication at page 3 of the Office Action that claims 3-13, 16, 35-39, 42-44 and 49 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have elected to forgo rewriting these claims in independent form in view of the remarks provided herein.

Indefinite Rejection of Claims 46-48 and 50-52

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 46-48 and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants have amended the claims consistent with the Examiner's remarks. Withdrawal of this rejection therefore is respectfully requested.

Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 50, 41, 45, 46 and 50-52

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 40, 41, 45, 46 and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Ang (U.S. Patent No. 6,420,913). This rejection is respectfully traversed with amendment.

Claim 1, from which claims 2-14 and 16 depend, has been amended to recite, in part, the limitations of monitoring a dynamic condition that causes transmission line impedance to vary, dynamically determining based upon the dynamic condition if a drive strength of a first output coupled to a first node is to be adjusted, dynamically adjusting the drive strength of the first output when determining indicates the drive strength of the first output is to be adjusted, wherein *the dynamic condition includes a first plurality of values to be provided substantially simultaneously in time to a plurality of first nodes that are adjacent to the first output*. Claim 40, from which claims 41-44 depend, and claim 45, from which claims 46-49 depend, have been amended to recite similar limitations. Claim 35, from which claims 36-39 presently depend, has been amended and rewritten in independent form. Claim 35 presently recites the limitations of monitoring *a bit pattern set to be output at a first output*, dynamically determining *based on the bit pattern set* if an output impedance of the first output is to be adjusted and dynamically adjusting the impedance of the first output *based on the bit pattern set*. Similarly, claim 52, from which claim 51 presently depends, has been amended and rewritten in independent form. Claim 52 presently recites the limitations a first output coupled to a transmission line having a varying impedance *based on a first plurality of values to be provided sequentially in time to a first output* and a drive control coupled to the first output, where the drive control is operable to *monitor the first plurality of values* and dynamically *adjust a drive strength of the first output* based upon a *determination that the drive strength of the first output is to be adjusted as a result of the first plurality of values*.

With respect to these limitations, the Examiner asserted that Ang teaches “monitoring the dynamic condition includes monitoring a first plurality of values (PVT) *to be provided substantially simultaneously (sequentially)* in time *to a first plurality of first nodes* (104) that are *adjacent to the first output*” Office Action, p. 3 (emphasis added). However, the Applicants submit that Ang teaches that the output impedance is controlled under a plurality of PVT conditions (see Ang, col. 3, lines 23-26), but Ang does not determine or give any value to these

PVT conditions, nor does the output of the driver of Ang provide PVT values. Instead, Ang discloses a technique to maintain a constant output impedance even in view of the effects of PVT. Moreover, Ang does not disclose or suggest that any PVT values are to be provided to node 104, either serially or in parallel, or to any other node for that matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that Ang fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation of claims 1, 35, 40, 45 and 52, as well as claims 2-14, 16, 36-39, 41-44, 46-49 and 51 at least by virtue of their dependency from one of claims 1, 35, 40, 45 and 52. Moreover, these claims recite additional limitations neither disclosed nor suggested by Ang.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the anticipation rejection of claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 40, 41, 45 46 and 50-52 is improper at this time and withdrawal of this rejection therefore is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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